

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS DOL FOR ILAB AND OSHA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN US LABOR LAWS
AND PRACTICES

1. THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF LABOR INFORMS US THAT A FEW DAYS AGO THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO REVISE ITS OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND PRACTICES IN OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. THEY ARE INTERESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SUCH THINGS AS A RECENT GERMAN LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF NOISE A WORKER MAY BE EXPOSED TO. THE MINISTRY IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN OBTAINING, PREFERABLY BY MID-FEBRUARY, AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN PROVIDE THEM ON US OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES, AND IN PARTICULAR HOW STANDARDS ARE SET, AND BY WHOM. AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, WE ARE PROVIDING THEM WITH SUCH MATERIALS AS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LABOR ATTACHE'S REFERENCE LIBRARY, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING, BY AIR POUCH, AS MUCH BASIC BACKGROUND MATERIAL AS DOL CAN MAKE AVAILABLE.

2. THE MINISTRY'S INTEREST EXTENDS BEYOND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY. THEY ARE PLANNING TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE
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US IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR TO STUDY: OUR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM; AND OUR EXPERIENCE IN PARTICIPATION AND JOB ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS. THERE IS ALSO SOME INTEREST IN STUDYING THE RELEVANCE OF LABOR STANDARDS TO TRADE ISSUES. ALTHOUGH THE FINAL DECISION AS TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE, IT WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS ONLY, AND THE TRIP OR POSSIBLY TRIPS WOULD BE ABOUT TWO WEEKS DURATION. THE MINISTRY WOULD APPRECIATE ITS GROUP BEING RECEIVED BY DOL, AND GIVEN ASSISTANCE IN MAKING FIELD TRIPS.

3. PREPARATORY TO THIS VISIT, WE WILL BE PROVIDING THE MINISTRY WITH THE BASIC BACKGROUND MATERIALS AVAILABLE LOCALLY; AND START A SERIES OF REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THEM TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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